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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/895,077	07/02/2001	Thomas V. Johnson	06502.0323	9092

22852 7590 10/31/2003

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EXAMINER

LEROUX, ETIENNE PIERRE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2003

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/895,077

Applicant(s)

JOHNSON ET AL.

Examiner

Etienne P LeRoux

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

Restriction/Election:

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-5, drawn to method for determining relationship between objects, classified in class 707, subclass 1
- II (a) Claims 6-10, drawn to method for maintaining reverse links in an object-oriented environment, classified in class 715, subclass 501.1
- II (b) Claims 11-15, drawn to method for performing association traversals in an object-oriented environment, classified in class 707, subclass 100
- II (c) Claims 16-17, drawn to system comprising a client and server for performing association traversals, classified in class 709, subclass 223
- II (d) Claims 18-20, drawn to system for performing association traversals, classified in class 707, subclass 3
- II (e) Claims 21-25, drawn to system for traversing associations in a common informational model, classified in class 705, subclass 1
- II (f) Claims 26-28, drawn to system for maintaining reverse links in an object-oriented environment, classified in class 370, subclass 335
- II (g) Claims 29-33, drawn to system for performing association traversals in an object-oriented environment, classified in class 705, subclass 7
- II (h) Claims 34-36, drawn to method for tracking relationships between objects in an object-oriented environment, classified in class 709, subclass 315

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- II (i) Claims 37-44, drawn to computer readable medium for performing a method for determining a relationship between objects, classified in class 707, subclass 103
- II (j) Claims 45-46, drawn to computer readable medium including instructions for performing a method for maintaining reverse links, classified in class 370, subclass 315
- II (k) Claims 47-49, drawn to computer readable medium including instructions for performing a method comprising association traversals, classified in class 707, subclass 213
- II (l) Claims 50-51, drawn to computer readable medium including instructions for performing a method for performing association traversals, classified in class 705, subclass 35
- II (m) Claim 52, drawn to system comprising a client and server for performing association traversals by the client, classified in class 705, subclass 8
- II (n) Claim 53, drawn to system comprising a client and server for performing association traversals by the server, classified in class 709, subclass 217
- II (o) Claims 54-56, drawn to computer readable medium for performing a method for tracking relationships between objects in an object-oriented environment, classified in class 700, subclass 90.

Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant

case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the combination can be used to ascertain the association between data/methods pertaining to the objects. The subcombination has separate utility such as analyzing data obtained via the Internet.

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- II (a) Claims 6-10, drawn to method for maintaining reverse links in an object-oriented environment
- II (b) Claims 11-15, drawn to method for performing association traversals in an object-oriented environment
- II (c) Claims 16-17, drawn to system comprising a client and server for performing association traversals
- II (d) Claims 18-20, drawn to system for performing association traversals
- II (e) Claims 21-25, drawn to system for traversing associations in a common informational model
- II (f) Claims 26-28, drawn to system for maintaining reverse links in an object-oriented environment
- II (g) Claims 29-33, drawn to system for performing association traversals in an object-oriented environment
- II (h) Claims 34-36, drawn to method for tracking relationships between objects in an object-oriented environment

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- II (i) Claims 37-44, drawn to computer readable medium for performing a method for determining a relationship between objects
- II (j) Claims 45-46, drawn to computer readable medium including instructions for performing a method for maintaining reverse links
- II (k) Claims 47-49, drawn to computer readable medium including instructions for performing a method comprising association traversals
- II (l) Claims 50-51, drawn to computer readable medium including instructions for performing a method for performing association traversals
- II (m) Claim 52, drawn to system comprising a client and server for performing association traversals by the client
- II (n) Claim 53, drawn to system comprising a client and server for performing association traversals by the server
- II (o) Claims 54-56, drawn to computer readable medium for performing a method for tracking relationships between objects in an object-oriented environment

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

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Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

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A telephone call was made to Mr. Joseph E. Palys on October 7, 2003, to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Etienne LeRoux whose telephone number is (703) 305-0620. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached on (703) 308-1436.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Patent related correspondence can be forwarded via the following FAX number (703) 872-9306

Etienne LeRoux

October 30, 2003


SAFET METJAHIC
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100